



Corres. and Mail

BOX AF

RECEIVED

SEP 12 2003

TC 1700

AF/1706

R sp ns Und r 37 CFR §1.116
Exp dit d Pr cedur
Group Art Unit 1700

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Posa et al.

Serial No.: 09/470,452

Group No.: 1771

Filed: Dec. 22, 1999

Examiner: H. Vo

For: TAPE AND WRAPPING MATERIALS WITH EDGE-FINDING FEATURE

RESPONSE TO FINAL REJECTION

Mail Stop AF
Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the final Office Action mailed July 9, 2003, the claims of this application are once again being submitted in unamended form for reconsideration in view of the following remarks.

Group I - Claim 20

Claim 20 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over what the Examiner is characterizing as "the admitted prior art," in view of Heilman, U.S. Patent No. 4,747,194. The Examiner concedes that the "the admitted prior art" excludes the presence of a fluorescent material in the backing layer of an adhesive tape, but argues that it would have been obvious to include such material "to generate an irreversible color change at the edge of the tape when the tape is cut." This reasoning is misguided on several grounds. First, what the Examiner is characterizing as "obvious" reads directly on Applicants' point of novelty, and there is no teaching or suggestion *from the prior art* in support of the Examiner's proposed combination. Secondly, even if such combination were justified, Applicants' inventive tape does not "generate an irreversible color change at the edge of the tape when the tape is cut." Rather, the edge of Applicants' tape always "glows," such that when a new edge is created, either by cutting or tearing, that new edge simply glows in the same manner as the previous one. According to the